

Congress of the United States
Washington D.C. 20515

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to support the nation's health care workforce by including \$980 million for Title VII health professions education and training programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This proposed increase accounts for the unique challenges HRSA will face in FY 2023 and will help HRSA continue to address COVID-19, health inequities, and patients' evolving needs across America in the wake of the pandemic.

The HRSA Title VII programs have helped the country combat COVID-19 despite the new challenges the pandemic posed for grantees. Many Title VII grantees pivoted their curricula to train our health workforce to mitigate COVID-19 and encountered unexpected costs, such as providing protective equipment for in-person training or switching to a virtual learning experience.

Simultaneously, the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need to increase and continuously reshape our health workforce. The HRSA Title VII programs have proven successful in recruiting, training, and supporting public health practitioners, geriatricians, mental health providers, and other frontline healthcare workers critical to addressing COVID-19. Additionally, HRSA has tasked Title VII grantees with utilizing innovative models of care, such as training providers in telehealth to improve patients' access to care during the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also laid bare the pervasive health inequities facing minority communities, as well as gaps in care for our most vulnerable patients, including an aging population that requires more healthcare services. The U.S Census Bureau projects that by 2045, our population will grow by over 18%, more than half the country will come from a racial or ethnic minority group, and one in five Americans will be over the age of 65. Furthermore, HRSA estimates that 148 million Americans already live in Health Professions Shortage Areas. The Title VII programs train providers to serve these ever-growing populations, preparing our

workforce for future demands. A diverse healthcare workforce improves access to care, patient satisfaction, and the learning and training environment. Studies show that Title VII programs such as the Health Careers Opportunity Program lead to increases in the number of underrepresented students enrolling in health professions schools, heightening awareness of factors contributing to health disparities and attracting health professionals more likely to treat underrepresented patients.

In addition, Title VII grantees continue to provide support for a wide range of other public health concerns, such as chronic care management for seniors and education and training in Alzheimer's disease. These programs also work to address the mental health gaps in our nation's health care system by developing and training the next generation of behavioral health providers and social workers, who are addressing the opioid epidemic and patients living with substance use disorder, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a time when the country is facing unprecedented provider shortages and public health challenges, it is necessary to continue to support and strengthen our commitment to programs that advance our health care workforce such as:

- Area Health Education Centers (AHEC),
- Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training,
- Centers of Excellence (COE),
- Clinical Training in Interprofessional Practice,
- Faculty Loan Repayment,
- Geriatrics Training,
- Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP),
- Mental and Behavioral Health,
- Medical Student Education grants,
- Oral Health Training,
- Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment,
- Primary Care Medicine,
- Public Health and Preventive Medicine,
- Rural Physician Training Grants,
- Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS),
- Teaching Health Center (THC) Planning Grants, and
- Workforce Information and Analysis.

These education and training programs guide current and aspiring health professionals to high demand careers. Support for these programs will ensure that the distribution, quality, and diversity of our nation's health professions workforce continues to improve, and that the workforce is prepared to meet the country's evolving and emerging health care needs.

We respectfully urge you to make the nation's next generation of health professionals a priority with a strong investment in Title VII programs in the FY 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



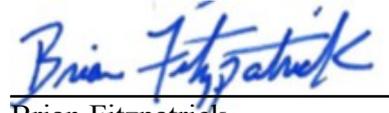
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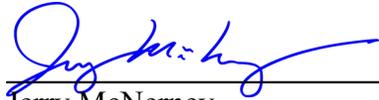
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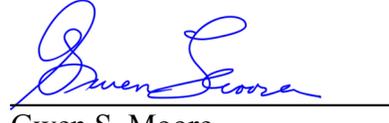
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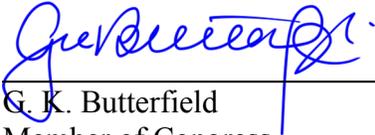
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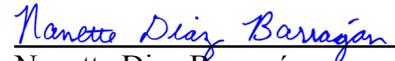
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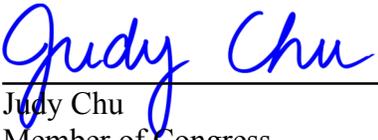
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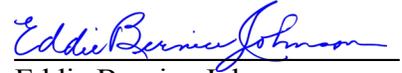
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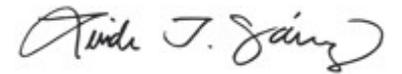
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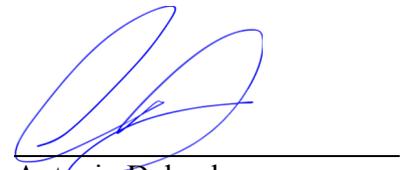
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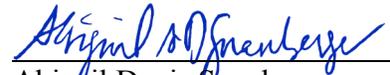
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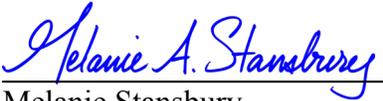
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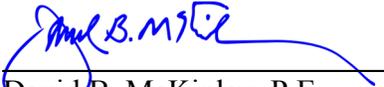
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